to the floor for another purpose. Not only did I not know that Ron Lasch was retiring, I did not know we were having this Special Order, and my friend from Michigan asked if I would like to insert my oars into these waters lauding Ron Lasch.

Mr. Speaker, some call him the floor manager, some call him the Great Poobah or the Great Mogul. Oftentimes, Mr. Speaker, I would go to Ron, I would come in here perhaps from a committee hearing and I would be running late and I would go to him and I would say Ron, what is this vote, my dear friend? And he would instinctively grab his wallet. When you are calling me ''dear friend'' you are up to no good. But I never saw him in any way become impatient with us, and that is the same, Mr. Speaker, for the staff generally.

Last month I was at an event in the intellectual property community in this town with ORRIN HATCH, Senator HATCH, the gentleman from the other body, from Utah. At that hearing I said to those people, oftentimes we take staff for granted. Mr. Speaker, we have talked about it before. Staff is very essential to the well being and to the efficient functioning of this body. Sometimes we think it does not function efficiently; but I think, on balance, it does, and Ron Lasch is the epitome of that role. I know he will be missed, as the gentleman from Virginia just said. He will be sorely missed here.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. UPTON) for inviting me to share these few thoughts.

Mr. BATEMAN. Mr. Speaker, reclaiming my time, we are all delighted to be here and wish for Ron the very best in his retirement, but we want him to know how very much we will miss him.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. TAYLOR of North Carolina). The gentleman's comments are well taken.

EFFORTS TO COMBAT ANTIBIOTIC RESISTANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, yesterday the House, for the first time ever, tackled the public health threat from antibiotic-resistant bacteria in our food supply.

On Monday, during debate on the agriculture appropriations bill, the House passed my amendment to dedicate an additional $3 million to the work of the Food and Drug Administration on antibiotic resistance resulting from the use of antibiotics in livestock.

Scientists and public health officials have known for decades that using the same antibiotics for food animals as for people could cause problems. Sixteen years ago my esteemed colleagues, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. DINGELL) and the gentleman from California (Mr. WAXMAN), introduced legislation to curtail the use of human antibiotics in animals. But this amendment, Mr. Speaker, marks the first time this House has taken legislative action to stop Boyd resistance from agricultural overuse of these precious drugs.

Mr. Speaker, we thought we were winning the war against infectious diseases. With the introduction of antibiotics in the 1940s, humans gained an overwhelming advantage in the fight against bacteria. But this war is far from won. Last month, the World Health Organization issued a ringing warning against antibiotic resistance. Around the world, microbes are mutating at an alarming rate into new strains that fail to respond to drugs.

The mapping of the human genome project has been lauded far and wide in the past several weeks. Indeed, mapping the genome is a triumph that will lead to many breakthroughs in health care. But in the meantime, we are slowly, and in some cases, rapidly losing our precious antibiotics and putting ourselves at risk for diseases that we thought we had licked: tuberculosis, typhoid, cholera, dysentery and on and on and on.

We need to develop new antibiotics, to be sure; but we cannot give up on the ones we have and the ones that have been effective for decades. By using antibiotics and antimicrobials more wisely and more sparingly, we can slow down antibiotic resistance.

We need to change the way drugs are given to people, because clearly, they are overprescribed in the developed world and often not fully taken in the underdeveloped world. But we also need to look at the way drugs are given to animals. According to the World Health Organization, 50 percent of all antibiotics are used in agriculture, both for animals and for plants. The U.S. livestock producers use drugs to treat sick herds and flocks, as they should. But they also feed a steady diet of antibiotics to help the livestock so they will gain weight more quickly and be ready for market sooner. Many of these drugs are the same ones used to treat infections in people.

Prolonged exposure to antibiotics in farm animals provides a breeding ground for resistant strains of E. Coli and salmonella and other bacteria harmful to humans. When transferred to people through the food we eat, they can cause dangerous infections.

A few weeks ago, an interagency task force issued a draft ''Public Health Action Plan to Combat Antimicrobial Resistance.'' The plan provides a blueprint for specific coordinated Federal actions. A top priority action item in the draft plan highlights work already underway at the Food and Drug Administration Center for Veterinary Medicine. In late 1998, the FDA issued a Proposed Framework for evaluating and regulating new animal drugs in light of their contribution to antibiotic resistance in humans.

Mr. Speaker, my amendment, which is now incorporated in the agricultural appropriations bill, directs an additional $3 million toward the FDA Center for Veterinary Medicine and their work on antibiotic resistance related to animal drugs. Director Sundloff has stated the antibiotic resistance is the center's top priority. However, the ''framework document'' states the agency will look first at approvals for new animal drugs and then will look at drugs already in use in animals as time and resources permit. That is why the additional $3 million will give a significant boost to the ability of the Center for Veterinary Medicine to move forward on antibiotic resistance and to begin to look at those drugs already in use in animals.

More importantly, Mr. Speaker, this body finally this week took a proactive step to protect us from resistant bacteria in our food supply. If the Senate acts quickly and decisively, many lives will be saved, particularly among young children and particularly among our elderly parents, the people who are most vulnerable to food-borne illnesses.

TRIBUTE TO MAXWELL EMMETT ''PAT'' BUTTRAM AND AUGUSTUS MCDANIEL ''GUS'' BUTTRAM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. ADERHOLT) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. ADERHOLT. Mr. Speaker, on June 19, 1915, a star and a humanitarian was born. Maxwell Emmett, better known as ''Pat'' Buttram of Addison, Alabama, in Winston County brought laughter and untold hours of sheer enjoyment to citizens across this great Nation. His film career spans 46 years from the early days as Gene Autry's sidekick to his parts as a voice in four of Disney's animated movies. Millions of television viewers will remember Pat for his role as the affable Mr. Haney in the television series ''Green Acres'' and ''Petticoat Junction.'' Pat had a keen wit in the style of Will Rogers and was a much sought-after speaker.

Pat was brought up in a Methodist parsonage, son of a circuit-riding Methodist minister. He was the seventh child in a family of five boys and three girls. Pat never forgot the early lessons taught by this strong, God-fearing family. Concern for others was a staple in the Buttram household. As Pat's fame grew, he used his celebrity status to perform in benefits and shared his time and talents to help those less fortunate. He never forgot his roots or the place he called home. He donated not only money, but also his time to help build Camp Maxwell near his home in Alabama. This camp has played an important part in the lives of youth and the handicapped.